

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4397

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BURSELS

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2771

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJ: AVLONA: TURKISH UNFICYP CONFRONTATION

REF: NICOSIA 2542(DTG 301414Z AUG 76)

1. ON SEPTEMBER 10 UNFICYP SOURCES INFORMED US THAT THE
CONTINUING SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TURK/TURK CYPRIOT
AND UNFICYP ON AVLONA HAD BEEN PUNCTUATED BY MACHINE GUN FIRE
FROM TURKISH SIDE. AFTER A MEETING BETWEEN UNFICYP AND
TURKISH AUTHORITIES ON SEPTEMBER 6 IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE
WOULD BE NO TURKISH ACTIVITY IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE AROUND
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AVLONA DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 7-9 PENDING FURTHER

NEGOTIATIONS. NEGOTIATIONS DID NOT TAKE PLACE AND ON SEPTEMBER 10 TURKISH "FARMERS" MOVED INTO DMZ AND WERE ASKED BY UNFICYP TO RETURN TO THE TURKISH FDL. FARMERS DID RETURN TO TURKISH LINES, BUT LATER, ABOUT 1400 HOURS LOCAL, TURKISH FORCES IN THE AREA FIRED MACHINE GUNS IN THE DIRECTION OF UNFICYP AND PERHAPS GREEK NATIONAL GUARD POSITIONS FOR APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES.

2. THIS INCIDENT MARKS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE TURKISH MILITARY HAVE ACTUALLY FIRED WEAPONS IN THE AVLONA AREA DURING THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY OVER USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE DMZ. UNFICYP BELIEVES THE TURKISH FIRING WAS FTR EFFECT. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES BUT UNFICYP CAN BE EXPECTED TO REACT WITH SHARP CONCERN.

3. WE(AND UNFICYP) EXPECT THAT THE CURRENT CRISIS IN AVLONA WILL, AS USUAL, BE SOLVED BY DIRECT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN TURKISH FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF AND UNFICYP CHIEF OF STAFF, IT IS HOWEVER, ONE MORE IN A CONTINUING SERIES OF INCIDENTS IN THE AVLONA AREA WHICH COULD, IN THIS SENSITIVE PRE-UNGA PERIOD, COMPLICATE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INTERCOMMUNAL DIALOGUE AND TO MINIMIZE ACRIMONIOUS CYPRUS RHETORIC IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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